

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF GENE BARBERET

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 22, 2021

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great regret that I rise today to mourn and observe the passing of an eternal educator, Dr. Gene Barberet of Mansfield, Connecticut. Having lived a full and active life, Gene passed away on his 101st birthday on January 11, 2021 due to complications related to the coronavirus.

Gene's life was intrinsically American, and he dedicated his life to professorial teaching and sharpening of the mind. To this end, Gene contributed a palpable value toward the strength and productivity of eastern Connecticut's community, the region I have the honor of representing. Dr. Barberet, a first-generation scholar born to parents who immigrated from Alsace, France, was always eager to observe and take from his environment as the youngest of eight siblings. His story will be remembered by many as one of vigor, decency, and a passion for cultural enrichment.

As a lifelong learner, Gene was always destined to become the wisest of educators. His potential in the education industry was reflected from the start, such as when he graduated co-valedictorian from Watertown High School in his hometown of Oakville, Connecticut. His deep French roots struck a clear cord with him from early on as well, motivating then Mr. Barberet to achieve a bachelors degree in French studies in 1941. Taking a break from his studies, Gene heeded the call to serve in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. Upon his return from the war, however, Gene resumed a determined effort to expand upon his roots—transitioning his education to Princeton University and going on to achieve a masters and subsequent doctoral degree in French literature by 1951.

Not one to let knowledge go to waste, Gene brought his specialization back to our home state of Connecticut before obtaining his doctoral degree in 1949, marking the genesis of a career in sharing his experience as a faculty of the University of Connecticut (UConn). Dr. Barberet went on to educate French Literature within UConn's Department of Modern and Classical Languages, building a true and personal connection to the University over the course of 40 years. He achieved this not by simply mastering lectures, but also by broadening his perspective alongside the very students he taught. As a professor, he personally oversaw the University's year long study abroad program to France, journeying with students across the Atlantic to better understand the international community and our place in it. Dr. Barberet's impact cannot be understated—throughout his long tenure he was recognized by a variety of honors and accolades, eventually even becoming knighted as a chevalier by the French government for his

contributions to the nation's culture. As a fondly remembered mentor and a scholar, multiple scholarship funds were established under the University in his name to support excellence in French.

Dr. Barberet retired from UConn in 1990 as a revered professor emeritus. Though UConn will always be his home, it should be noted that he engaged in a gregarious retirement, frequently travelling back to his heritage in France as well as other stints in Europe. He never gave up on the affinity for education either, acting as a volunteer teacher at the Donald Bergin Correction Institution, a board member of the Center for Learning in Retirement, and even initiating a weekly French conversational circle at the Mansfield Senior Center well into his latest years. Dr. Barberet touched the lives of many who hail from eastern Connecticut.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to represent constituents as monumental and influential as Gene. His legacy is a lasting and tangible one, having expanded horizons for not only himself, but the lives of thousands of students, colleagues, and friends. While we all mourn his loss, we can at least find solace that his story, memory and purpose lives on in the lives of countless others. Therefore, I find it fitting that we as a institutional body set his name and character further into stone. I ask that the entire House join me in recognizing the life of Dr. Gene Barberet and never forgetting that the best educators—and by extension leaders—never end their quest of learning.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE MASSACRES AGAINST ARMENIANS OF SUMGAIT, KIROVABAD, AND BAKU

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 22, 2021

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise to mourn and honor the victims of the massacres against Armenians of Sumgait on February 27–29, 1988; of Kirovabad on November 21–27, 1988; and of Baku on January 13–19, 1990. During these events, attackers tortured and killed hundreds of Armenian residents. I condemn these pogroms and subsequent aggression by the Azerbaijanis against Armenian civilians and their culture.

As we approach the anniversary of the attacks in Sumgait 33 years ago and reflect on Azerbaijan's ruthless aggression in Artsakh last fall, I urge the U.S. to take a leading role in achieving a fair, just, and lasting peace settlement between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan has shed innocent blood for far too long, and its actions are a clear violation of the international order. I call on the Biden Administration to take a different approach from the previous administration when it comes to holding bad actors accountable. The U.S. must uphold human rights for everyone, everywhere.

HONORING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ AFRICAN AMERICAN THEATER ARTS TROUPE

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 22, 2021

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of the University of California, Santa Cruz African American Theater Arts Troupe (AATAT) to enrich student life at UC Santa Cruz and the Santa Cruz community by providing a space for expression and empowerment. This year, AATAT is celebrating its 30th anniversary. Since its founding in 1991, AATAT has been a steward for theater arts by fostering performing arts, providing a space for community and expression, and furthering cultural enrichment.

The creation of this organization at UC Santa Cruz was not without challenges. AATAT began without a budget, dedicated space, or theater amenities. With the guidance and tireless work of founding instructor Donald Williams, AATAT was able to grow over the years into a full theater production troupe that performs, inspires, and uplifts thousands of people each year.

The artistic and generous spirit of AATAT goes beyond the stage. AATAT strives for inclusivity by making their performances free and accessible to all UC Santa Cruz students. The group's sense of duty has led them to work with high school students across California, tutoring an average of 2000 students each year. In the spirit of uplifting others, AATAT has been able to provide over \$100,000 in scholarships through the years.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the history, dedication, and contributions of the UC Santa Cruz African American Theater Arts Troupe. I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the UC Santa Cruz African American Theater Arts Troupe as an exceptional group of community and artistic leaders on the central coast of California.

HONORING KYLE REOGAS OF HALEYVILLE, ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 22, 2021

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to offer a congratulations to the retiring police chief of the city of Haleyville, Alabama, Kyle Reogas.

The city of Haleyville is where I was born, grew up and is my current residence and Chief Reogas has served our community as chief for 29 years. In fact, Chief Reogas has been with the Haleyville Police Department for a total of 34 years.

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